

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-6 (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for preventing apoptosis in a cell of the nervous system comprising an effective amount of purine nucleoside selected from guanosine, inosine or an analog of guanosine or inosine in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

8. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the cell of the nervous system is from the central nervous system.

9. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the cell is an astrocyte or a neuron.

10. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to any ~~one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7 for the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating a neurodegenerative disease, a stroke, a head injury or a spinal cord injury.

11. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's chorea or Parkinson's disease, Bell's Palsy, Pick's disease, multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and prion-induced diseases.

12. (Original) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein the prion-induced disease is selected from Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, scrapie, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Claims 13-14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A method of preventing apoptosis in a cell of the nervous system comprising administering an effective amount of a purine nucleoside selected from guanosine, inosine or an analog of guanosine or inosine to an animal in need thereof.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the cell of the nervous system is from the central nervous system.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the cell is an astrocyte or a neuron.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15 for preventing or treating a neurodegenerative disease, a stroke, a head injury or a spinal cord injury.

19. (New) The method according to claim 18 wherein the neurodegenerative disease is selected from Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's chorea or Parkinson's disease, Bell's Palsy, Pick's disease, multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and prion-induced diseases.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19 wherein the prion-induced disease is selected from Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, scrapie, and bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

21. (New) A method for preventing glycogen synthase kinase-3b activity in a cell of the nervous system comprising administering an effective amount of a purine nucleoside selected from guanosine, inosine or an analog of guanosine or inosine to an animal in need thereof.

22. (New) A method for inducing the expression and/or activity of Bcl-2 in a cell of the nervous system comprising administering an effective amount of a purine nucleoside selected from guanosine, inosine or an analog of guanosine or inosine to an animal in need thereof.